

TOGETHER WITH ONE VOICE: WE BELONG TO JESUS

January 11, 2015 - Pastor Derwin L. Gray

Open in prayer.

Introduction

- God has an eternal purpose for His church. (Ephesians 3:10)
- God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit has always wanted to bring heaven on earth.
- God's solution for fixing this broken planet is to create His church...His bride...so that we can go into the world and be beautiful.
- God gave His life **for us** and gave His life **to us** so that He can live His life **through us** as a people who express His beauty to the world.
- When we love, honor and respect one another in the midst of our differences, we're an expression of God's beauty to the world... together with one voice.

Read Romans 1:1-7.

Jesus took Paul from Church-destroyer to Church-builder.

- The church is a people, not a building.
- Who is Paul?
 - He was Jewish and he was a Roman citizen. He was a Pharisee. He was a tent maker by trade. He grew up in a city with filled with economic and ethnic diversity.

Read and discuss Acts 8:3.

- Paul felt like it was his mission to destroy the "followers of Jesus".

Read and discuss Acts 9:1-5.

- Paul was ready to continue his mission until he had an encounter with God.
 - Do you know a 'Paul' today that continues to be on mission against God? Take time to pray for that person.
- Jesus told Saul (paraphrased), "When you persecute my people, you persecute me".
 - What does that mean for those of us who are Christ followers?
 - How does that give us boldness as we live our lives "on-mission" with God?

Read and discuss Acts 9:15-16.

- Ananias (the man God sent to Paul) means "grace".
 - Is there someone in your life that you're afraid to share God's grace?
 - What hope do we see when the Lord said about Paul, "he is a chosen instrument of Mine"?
 - Who did God call Paul to share the Gospel?
 - Who has He called us to share the Gospel?
- If you follow Jesus and you're serious about His grace, you will suffer. God's greatest goal isn't to make you comfortable.
 - What do these two statements say to us about following Jesus?
 - How is this different than what's often heard in churches?

In Christ Jesus, you are:

A servant, a messenger, and set apart for the Gospel of God.

Read and discuss Romans 1:1.

- This servant means one who serves a master because they want to and because they do they are free.
- As a servant of Christ, true freedom brings focus, purpose, and vision. It's a tractor beam that pulls us through the circumstances of life.
- Are you experiencing God's true freedom in your life?
- What's your focus, purpose, and vision for life? (Hint: Upward, Inward, Outward)

- Paul was an Apostle (a messenger who knew Jesus) who was sent to share His love.
- We are apostles (messengers) who are sent to share His love.
 - Who has God placed in your life to give His message?
 - How do we share the message of God's love? (relational vs. confrontational)
- *Set apart for God* speaks of God's eternity—He had us on his mind already before the world began and already loved us.
 - How does that transform the way we live our lives?
 - Discuss this statement, "God, the perfect parent loves and values us not for what we do...but because He is love".

In Christ this is your:

Identity and sacred vocation.

- Our identity is often defined by what we do or what we have. In Christ, our identity is in Jesus alone.
 - Who or what do you find yourself placing your identity?
 - What happens when we place our identity in anything or anyone other than Jesus?
- Our sacred vocation is that everything that we do is sacred.
- The first of our Five Characteristics (worship, connect, serve, give, and invite) is worship. It means "*All of life is worship--from going to work to going to school and everything else in life. We want to have an awareness that God's presence and power is with us in everything that we do, and all that we do, we do to honor Him.*"
 - How does seeing all of life as worship change the way you do life?
 - What area of life are you challenged in living a life of worship?
 - Take time to pray for and encourage one another in living lives of worship.

Who is Jesus the Christ?

Jesus is the eternal Son of God – from the line of King David – and Lord.

Read and discuss Romans 1:2-4.

In Christ:

We have the privilege of bringing God glory through sharing the Gospel.

Read and discuss Romans 1:5.

- We have the privilege and authority to share the Gospel.
 - What does "sharing your faith" look like"? (Hint: Upward, Inward, Outward)
 - Who are we called to share our faith?
 - If we're called to share our faith (living out His upward, inward, outward love) with everyone, why is it important to be a church that is "multi-ethnic, multi-generational"?
 - Discuss this statement, "It's time to put down our preferences and pick up our crosses".
- **How do we share find people to share the Gospel? (See below)**
- **Intercede** (pray) for people around you. Pray a simple prayer, *God bring someone in my life that doesn't know Jesus.*
- **Invest** in those around you.
 - When you wake up, ask, *whose life can I make better?*
 - If you want your life to change, quit praying prayers that are all about you.
- **Invite** others to Christ and/or to TC.
 - 80% of people who come to TC are invited on the arms of a friend.
 - When was the last time you've cried about people who don't know Jesus?
 - When was the last time you were in relationship with someone you interceded for, invested in, and invited to TC?

Soul-tattoo: Fast with me on Wednesday.

- Fast from something that will allow you to focus on God instead of that activity—eating, social media.

CALENDAR

Transform U: Career and Calling

TC Teens

BECAUSE Campaign

Learn More About What's Happening at TC

January 24 & 31: 7:30am-12pm

Wednesday's, 6pm

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